

IN THE SPECIFICATION

[0012] A railing 10, shown in Figure 1, has horizontal top and bottom rails 11 and 12 joined to upright columns or posts 13 and 14 providing a generally rectangular opening for a plurality of laterally spaced spindles or balusters 17. Posts 13 and 14 are anchored to a support 16, such as a floor, deck, or ground. Rails 11 and 12 and posts 13 and 14 are conventional wood members. Plastic, metal and composite materials can be used for the rails and posts. The spindles 17 comprise laterally spaced upright cylindrical tubes or linear tubular members 21. Tubular members 21 are metal tubes, such as aluminum tubes. Other materials, such as plastic or composite materials, can be used for spindles 17. A plurality of laterally spaced upright linear tubes 21 are located between rails 11 and 12. The opposite ends of the tubes 21 are retained with ball connectors or ball knobs 23 in surface engagement with flat plates 18 and 19 located in surface engagement with top and bottom rails 11 and 12 to space the ends of tubes 21 from rails 11 and 12. Each of ~~plates 17~~ plates 18 and 19 has a row of laterally spaced holes 20 and 25 that register the lateral space between ~~spindles~~ tubes 21. Washers or spacers can be used in lieu of ~~plates 17~~ plates 18 and 19 to space the ends of tubes 21 from rails 11 and 12, as shown in Figures 24 to 28. An alternative railing has the opposite ends of the tubes in direct contact with the top and bottom rails or bottom support, as shown in Figure 29.